AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

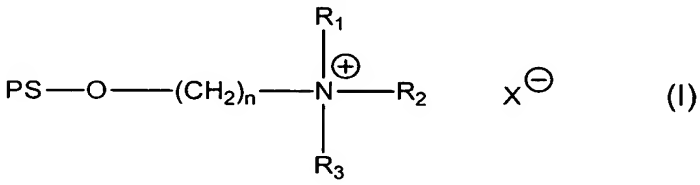
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

Claims 1-6. (Cancelled).

Claim 7. (New): A method of treating infectious diseases comprising:

(a) providing an alpha-glycosidically linked starch polysaccharide derivative represented by general formula I,



(I)

wherein said alpha-glycosidically linked starch polysaccharide derivative has a degree of quaternary ammonium group substitution of from 0.4 to 2.0,

n is 2-4,

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4} alkyl, benzyl and benzyl substituted with a member selected from the group consisting of C_{1-3} alkyl, halogen, alcoxy, carbamoyl, alkoxycarbonyl, cyano, dialkylamino and hydrogen,

R_2 and R_3 are each independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4} alkyl, benzyl and benzyl substituted with a member selected from the group consisting of C_{1-3} alkyl, halogen, alcoxy, carbamoyl, alkoxycarbonyl, cyano and dialkylamino, and

X is an anion selected from the group consisting of halide, hydroxide, sulfate, hydrogen sulfate and carboxylate; and

(b) inhibiting the growth of an infectious disease by administering a composition comprising said alpha-glycosidically linked starch polysaccharide derivative.

Claim 8. (New): The method of Claim 7 wherein said infectious disease is selected from the group consisting of pathogenic bacteria, herpes viruses, influenza viruses and combinations thereof.

Claim 9. (New): The method of Claim 8 wherein said infectious disease is selected from pathogenic bacteria, and said alpha-glycosidically linked starch polysaccharide derivative is administered at a minimal inhibitory concentration of from 5 to 60 mg/l.

Claim 10. (New): The method of Claim 8 wherein said infection disease is selected from the group consisting of herpes viruses, influenza viruses and combinations thereof, and said alpha-glycosidically linked starch polysaccharide derivative is administered at a minimal inhibitory concentration of from 3 to 50 mg/l.

Claim 11. (New): The method of Claim 7 wherein said alpha-glycosidically linked starch polysaccharide derivative is administered at a dose of 0.1 to 1000 mg/kg of bodyweight.

Claim 12. (New): The method of Claim 7 wherein said alpha-glycosidically linked starch polysaccharide derivative has a degree of quaternary ammonium group substitution of from 0.6 to 1.8.

Claim 13. (New): The method of Claim 7 wherein the starch polysaccharide of said alpha-glycosidically linked starch polysaccharide derivative is selected from the group consisting of potato starch, wheat starch, corn starch, rice starch and combinations thereof.

Claim 14. (New): The method of Claim 7 wherein the starch polysaccharide of said alpha-glycosidically linked starch polysaccharide derivative is selected from the group consisting of starches partially hydrolyzed by chemical means, starches partially hydrolyzed by enzymatic means, starches obtained from genetically

modified plants and combinations thereof.

Claim 15. (New): The method of Claim 7 wherein said alpha-glycosidically linked starch polysaccharide derivative is administered in a form selected from the group consisting of solutions, suspensions, tablets, capsules, suppositories and combinations thereof.

Claim 16. (New): The method of Claim 15 wherein said alpha-glycosidically linked starch polysaccharide derivative is administered by means selected from the group consisting of parenteral administration, intravenous injection, subcutaneous injection, intramuscular injection, intranasal administration and combinations thereof.